

K-C Docket No.: 15,105.1
Serial No.: 10/810,977

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Claim 34. A permanently wettable superabsorbent fiber comprising:

- a superabsorbent fiber; and
- a surfactant;
- wherein the superabsorbent fiber has a hydrophobic surface;
- wherein the surfactant has at least one reactive functional group that is reactive with the superabsorbent fiber;
- wherein the surfactant has at least one non-reactive functional group that is non-reactive with the superabsorbent fiber;
- wherein the surfactant has been applied to the superabsorbent fiber as a surfactant solution;
- wherein the surfactant solution includes an amount of water that is sufficient to activate the hydrophobic surface of said superabsorbent fiber to promote reaction between the at least one reactive functional group and the hydrophobic surface of the superabsorbent fiber, but less than sufficient to cause significant swelling of the superabsorbent fiber; and
- wherein said surfactant is applied to said superabsorbent fiber when said surface is activated by increasing an amount of said at least one reactive functional group available to react at said hydrophobic surface of said superabsorbent fiber.

Claim 35. The permanently wettable superabsorbent fiber of claim 34 having a reduction in surface tension of saline of less than about 30%, as measured by the Surface Tension Test.

Claim 36. A disposable absorbent product comprising a liquid-permeable topsheet, a backsheet attached to said topsheet, and an absorbent structure comprising the permanently wettable superabsorbent fiber of claim 34 positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claims 37-39. (canceled)

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Evidence Appendix

None at this time.

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Related Proceedings Appendix

None.